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ways, and both belong to genera exclusively North American. Both lend themselves well to the sculptor's art. Between them there is little choice, but we rather lean to the tulip-tree, which, besides its conspicuous flowers and very characteristic leaves, is one of the monarchs of our woods. It thus well represents our characteristic richness in forests, and expresses, figuratively, the strength and greatness of our country.

The scientific editor of the *New York Tribune* will be probably on hand at the Toronto meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to misrepresent the science of the United States. According to this luminary, the only important scientific meeting held in America up to 1884, was that of the British Association at Montreal that year. As Toronto is not on American soil, he will probably find this year's meeting the next most important. The left-handed compliments paid by this gentlemen to American science will, perhaps, suggest to the readers of his articles that the mind of their author acts inversely as the square of the distance of its objects. We wish we could find an integration of the matter of these articles at all correspondent to the dissipation of energy wasted in writing them.

RECENT LITERATURE.

SCUDDER'S MESOZOIC COCKROACHES.¹—On comparing mesozoic with palæozoic cockroaches the author finds the fundamental distinction is in the change which the principal nervures of the upper wings have undergone, by the basal or total amalgamation of some of them—a change which reaches its culmination in living species. In the basis of these differences he divides the mesozoic cockroaches into three groups: *a*, those in which only the mediastinal and scapular veins are amalgamated; *b*, those in which the externomedian is united with one of the veins on either side of it; *c*, those in which either

¹ A Review of Mesozoic Cockroaches. By Samuel H. Scudder: Extract from the Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History. 1886.

the mediastinal, scapular, and externomedian veins are all united, or there are two lines of union, one between the mediastinal and scapular, and the other between the externomedian and internomedian veins. There are fifty species (28 sp. nov.) figured and described in detail. These are referred to seventeen species, four of which are new.

LYDEKKER'S FAUNA OF THE KARNUL CAVES.¹—This quarto, of 57 pages and 5 plates, belongs to the series of Palæontologia Indica. The author describes remains of 42 mammals, 8 birds, 5 reptiles, 1 toad, and 9 mollusks. Of the larger mammals no complete skulls were found; only detached teeth, fragments of jaws, and more or less imperfect limb bones. Of the smaller mammals skulls were found in some instances. The remarkable feature in the mammalian remains is the occurrence of a *Cynocephalus*, which may be identical with a living African species; of *Hyæna crocuta*; of a small equus, indistinguishable from *E. asinus*; and of a *Manis*, apparently identical with the existing West African species, *M. gigantea*. The author considers the occurrence of these forms extremely important in supplementing the evidence afforded by the Siwalik fauna as to the probable derivation of many of the existing Ethiopian mammals from those of the later tertiaries of India.

BRANNER'S CRETACEOUS AND TERTIARY GEOLOGY OF THE SERGIPE-ALAGÔAS BASIN OF BRAZIL.²—The author states that the importance of this region is due to (1) The representation of a geological range unusual in Brazil; (2) The rich fossiliferous nature of many of its beds; (3) The accessibility of good exposure across the entire section. He is of the opinion that the key to future successful geologic work in Brazil lies in the careful study and comprehension of some such typical region as that comprised in the provinces of Sergipe and Alagôas. Although much of this paper is of a statistical nature, it will be found extremely interesting by the general reader as well as by the special student.

¹ The Fauna of the Karnul Caves. By R. Lydekker, B. A., F. G. S., etc. Extract Memoirs of the Geol. Survey of India, Vol. IV., Part II. 1886.

² The Cretaceous and Tertiary Geology of the Sergipe-Alagôas Basin of Brazil. By John C. Branner, Ph. D. Extract from Trans. Am. Philosoph. Soc., Vol. XVI., 1889.